IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the following paragraphs of the published specification as follows:

[0008] For example, in case an access is made to Server A 103 and Server B 104 connected to LAN ports of the router 102 shown in FIG. 15, the aforementioned port forwarding setting is previously performed on the router 102. In case an access is made from the Internet 101 to Server A 103, http://serverA.server.net:81/" is to be specified. In case an access is made from the Internet 101 to Server B 104, http://serverB.server.net:- 80/" is to be specified. This allows a DNS server on the Internet 101 to perform conversion to the global IP address of the [[route]] router 102 thus providing an access to the router. In accordance with the conversion table, the router forwards an access to ports "80" and "81" to the local IP address "192.168.0.253" and the local IP address "192.168.0.254" thus allowing an access to Server A 103 and Server B 104. To access Server A 103 and Server B 104 by using the port forwarding feature, port numbers must be assigned to the servers so that the numbers will not be duplicate.

[0010] The UPnP forum specifies a standard for dynamic setting of port forwarding (port mapping). In this standard, a subordinate terminal makes an inquiry to a router about whether its corresponding port is available and the router registers the terminal in case the port is available. In case it is unavailable, the terminal makes an inquiry about whether its corresponding port is available until the port is determined. In the process, the router automatically sets the port number on the Internet. This approach has a problem that a port number is automatically selected

and the user on the Internet does not know which port number is ~~assumed~~ assigned to which terminal.

[0011] The UPnP standard ~~is on the URL: http://www.upnp.org/standardizeddc-ps/default.asp as retrieved~~ was available on the Internet on Nov. 29, 2002.

[0051] When the other image servers 3b, 3c ~~issues~~ issue an assignment request to the router 2, the router 2 sequentially assigns ports to the image servers 3b, 3c. Having finished assigning ports to the image servers, the router 2 notifies port numbers assigned to the image servers 3b, 3c in response to a regular inquiry from the representative image server 3a. When the user wishes to access the image servers 3b, 3c from the terminal 4 via the Internet 1, the user has only to access the image server 3a from the terminal 4. This allows the image server 3a to provide its port number as address information by way of a web page provided by the image server to the terminal 4, thereby allowing connection to the image servers 3b, 3c. In this practice, assigning host names for identification to the image servers 3a, 3b, 3c facilitates connection via the user interface of the image server 3a.

[0079] FIG. 10 shows the port mapping sequence. SQ81 through SQ86 is a sequence corresponding to steps 1 through 19 mentioned above and is the same as SQ1 through SQ6 in Embodiment 1. [[Fore]] For details of the sequence, refer to Embodiment 1.

[0105] A plurality of image servers comprising for example a camera and an image data generator for processing a picture signal of a picture shot with the camera to encode the signal are individually accessible with a single IP address even in case they are arranged under a relay device (router). While it is difficult to assign individual IP addresses to image servers in the current situation where the IP protocol IPv4 is mainly used, a single IP address assigned to a relay device [[maybe]] may be sufficient for an access to an individual server by using the address/port information on other servers.